

# MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY SIDELINES

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## Student activity fees doled out

By Heather Hybarger / staff

More than \$54,000 has been allocated this semester to various student organizations by the Student Activity Fee Committee.

Funding for student organizations comes from the \$4 Student Government Association (SGA) activity fee students must pay at the beginning of each semester. This money is divided among student organizations based on the requests of each organization.

The committee decides on the allocations based on a set of criteria established at the beginning of the semester. These criteria are not recorded but are followed throughout the semester.

SGA received priority in the allocation of funds because SGA activities are intended to benefit the entire student body.

SGA received the largest amount of funds from the committee, a total of \$5,800.

The money is earmarked for the following: \$1,500 for Spring elections, \$3,000 for the SGA Banquet, \$980 for expenses at the

Texas A&M student government conference and \$220 for hosting the Tennessee student president's luncheon. Sigma Alpha Epsilon received the next highest amount, with \$2,500 for scholarships for the Miss MTSU/Blue Raider pageant.

Five percent of the money to be allocated is reserved for emergency expenses, but the remainder is dispersed to organizations through reimbursement. The organizations must bring receipts showing expenses and will be reimbursed according to their allocation.

To reduce the amount of time it takes for the committee to decide on the allocations, the process has been revised.

Last semester each organization requesting funds had to bring a representative before the committee in a hearing to discuss the nature of the request. The request applications have been revised this semester, and the hearings have been completely eliminated.

Organizations were required to submit a detailed itemization of proposed expenditures, such as all the details concerning trips and

conferences, guest speakers and scholarships.

They are also required to answer questions concerning all fund-raisers scheduled for that organization.

"We were thrilled at the fact we could get through it so much faster," said Gail Stephens, associate dean of Student Life and chair of the committee. Last semester the process took six days, but this semester the committee was finished in two.

"We are also gradually moving up the deadline [for Fall request forms] so that they will all be in by the first day of fall classes," Stephens said.

The committee is made up of six students, two faculty members and one administrator. All votes on allocations require a quorum of four students, and Stephens does not vote on allocations.

Stephens stressed that the list of allocations does not reflect what the student organizations asked for, only what the committee allotted them.

The SGA activity fee was raised \$1 last spring following a student referendum on the SGA ballot. ●

## Baseball team takes down 15th ranked Alabama Tide

By Rob Nunley / staff

The defending Ohio Valley Conference champion Blue Raider baseball team opened its 1996 season in impressive fashion Tuesday in Tuscaloosa, Ala., with a 4-3 comeback win over the 15th-ranked Crimson Tide.

Tuesday's victory was the first in a season opener in five years for the Middle Tennessee squad, and only the third season-opening win in coach Steve Peterson's tenure.

"It was unbelievable," Raider outfielder Jordan Beddies said. "It was exactly what we needed. We've got a lot of young guys, and to be able to show them we can win a big game like this is really important."

The Crimson Tide struck first on Tuesday, going up two runs to nothing in the bottom of the first inning. After Raider starter Jason Stanton struck out the Tide's first two batters, Alabama designated hitter Dax Norris hit a ground-rule double to left field. The next hitter, right fielder Dustin Mohr, connected for a two-run homer to left.

Alabama put another run on the

board in the bottom of the seventh when catcher Rusty Loflin walked, moved to second on a bunt and took third on a wild pitch. With two outs in the inning pinch hitter Robbie Tucker, who was intentionally walked, got caught in a rundown between first and second. Loflin scored from third before the Raiders could tag Tucker out, giving the Tide a 3-0 lead with only two innings left to play.

"When they got that third run we were starting to get worried," Beddies said. "But I knew if we could get some big hits, we could get back in it."

And a big hit was exactly what the Raiders got in the top of the eighth, when Beddies blasted a two-run homer to deep left field off losing pitcher Tim Young. Beddies' round-tripper scored outfielder Ryan Dillard, who had led off the inning with a walk, and put Middle on the board at 3-2.

"He threw me two fast balls and I missed them, so I stepped out to try and figure out what was wrong," Beddies said. "Then he came in at me with a low one, and that's my pitch. I

Please see **BASEBALL** on page 3

## SGA elections pending referendum, signature

By Heather Hybarger / staff

Petitions for a referendum to change election dates in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution will be circulated beginning tomorrow, said Senator Chad White during Wednesday's House meeting.

In order to hold elections this semester, the Constitution must be changed so that spring elections will be held anytime during the Spring semester. Currently, the Constitution specifies the elections be held in March.

Due to Tennessee primary elections and Spring Break, it is not possible for SGA to acquire voting booths during the month of March.

SGA must collect 500 student signatures to call for a paper ballot referendum.

"I can't stress enough that it is very important we get that referendum and get this straightened out so we can have elections," said Speaker of the House Jamie Groce.

Along with Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance's signature on the revisions of the Electoral Act, the referendum is the only obstacle remaining for spring SGA elections.

In a meeting with LaLance, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs John Hays, Dean of Student Life Tom Burke, SGA President Shane McFarland, Representative Michael Grantham and Senator White, it was announced that LaLance would pass the Comprehensive Electoral Act of 1996 under a few conditions.

The Electoral Act Revision

Please see **SGA** on page 2

## Parking to be cramped by TSSAA tournament

By Mark Blevins / staff

Finding a parking space will be a little tougher the next two weeks as the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) basketball tournaments roll into town, according to Manager of Parking and Transportation Gary Hunter.

The TSSAA Region IV Tournament is slated for next week, Feb. 26-29, when games will be held in the evenings at Murphy Center.

Games begin at 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Hunter said the expected 4,000-6,000 fans will probably arrive an hour before game times and that students should be prepared.

The fans will park in the Greenland Drive parking lot first, then probably flow east into the C Street parking lot and then further east towards Cummings Hall, Hunter said. Students should take some extra

time to get to class and should search for parking places away from Murphy Center, Hunter recommended.

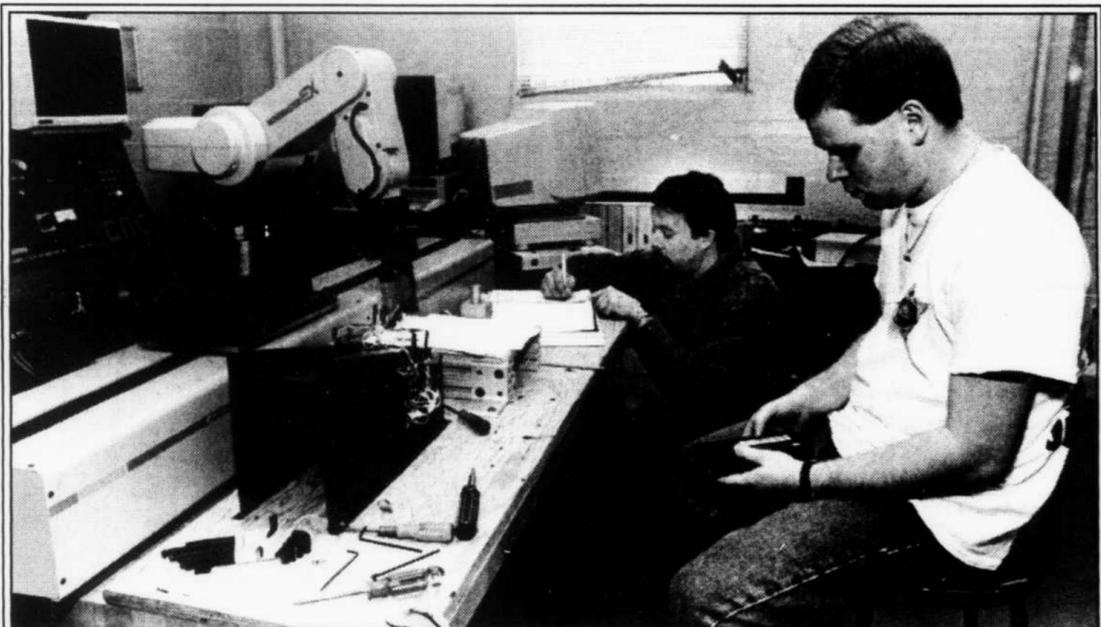
The TSSAA women's finals are scheduled for the following week, March 4-7. The men's finals are scheduled for March 11-14 which is during MTSU's spring break.

Universities across the state compete to host the tournaments which bring exposure and recognition, according to David Gray, director of Operational Services.

Gray said high school athletes and supporters come from around the state to the tournaments, bringing MTSU exposure.

The TSSAA tournaments have been contracted to MTSU through the 1998 season.

While no fee is charged, the TSSAA picks up the cost of janitorial services and ticket takers. The Blue Raider Athletic Association benefits by selling concessions throughout the tournaments, Gray said. ●



## Mr. Roboto

Troy Davis (front) and Anthony Hook, both engineering technology majors, work on their senior project in the Industrial Studies complex. They are trying to get the robot to pick up and move aluminum dowels.

Carl E. Lambert / staff

## National and local issues present on ballot

### Early voting opens for presidential primaries and local elections

By Kris Wetzel / staff

Early voting began in Tennessee yesterday, and the Rutherford County ballot will include national and local elections.

The ballot includes the presidential primaries for the Republican and Democratic parties, the county Democratic primary and a referendum on a proposed \$10 increase on Rutherford County's wheel tax.

The Republican presidential preference ballot contains the eight Republican candidates still running and Sen Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who dropped from the race last week. Voters in the Democratic primary can choose between President Clinton or

remain uncommitted.

The Rutherford County Democratic primary includes a contested race for highway superintendent between Highway Department employee Joe Hopper and incumbent Highway Superintendent Mike Williams.

The winner of the Democratic primaries will face Republican Buddy Gamble in August.

The proposed \$10 wheel tax increase is intended to keep property taxes down, according to Register at Large Amy Williams.

"The increase in the wheel tax is intended to prevent all the weight [from being] on the property taxes in Rutherford County," Williams said.

Early voting became part of Tennessee election law in July 1994.

Voters can choose from four voting locations: the Election Commission office on the Public Square, SportsCom on Memorial Boulevard,

the Salvation Army building on New Salem Highway and Smyrna City Court Building on Front Street.

Polls will be open through March 7 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00-4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 p.m. Voting times will be extended on Tuesdays from 9:00-7:00 p.m. to provide more convenience, Williams said. There is no voting on Thursdays.

Although it is past deadline to register to vote for early voting, students may register to vote for upcoming elections providing they live in the city of Murfreesboro or Rutherford County, Williams said.

Voter registration forms can be obtained by calling the Election Commission office at 898-7743.

They are also available at several Murfreesboro locations, including the County Clerks office, the Register of Deeds office and the public library. ●

## FEATURES

A fraternity teaches the 'Black National Anthem' Page 6

## WEATHER

THUR  
partly  
cloudy

High: 69  
Low: 53



FRI  
partly  
cloudy

High: 80  
Low: 55



SAT  
partly  
cloudy

High: 63  
Low: 45



## SPORTS

Softball team eyes OVC title in 1996 season Page 7



MTSU Concerts and MTSU College of Mass Communications present

# Battle for The Knoll

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## Trumpet performance wins music contest

By Ryan Werner / staff

Twelve students competed Tuesday night for a \$200 prize in the first MTSU African-American Musical Arts Contest.

The contest, held in Wright Music Hall, was sponsored by the African-American History Month Committee in conjunction with the Music Department.

First place was awarded to Paul McKinney, a graduate student in Music Education who is also working on his second degree in the Department of Recording Industry. McKinney won with a jazz trumpet performance of

the Freddie Hubbard song "Up Jumped Spring."

"I felt I did OK, but I didn't feel that I would place," McKinney said. "There was so much good talent. I feel very fortunate to have come out on top."

"This was the most well-organized and well-run talent show ever," McKinney said.

With the award money, he said he would give his tithe to the church and put the rest of the money in the bank.

Second place was awarded to Cherisse Aunae Scott, a junior, for her performance of Thomas Whitfield's "I Feel Jesus," and third place was

awarded to William Coleman, a graduate student, for his piano performance of "Dark Horseman" from William Grant Still's "Three Visions."

All three winners will perform at the African-American Unity Luncheon today at noon in the James Union Building.

"The purpose of the event is to foster a heightened appreciation for and in celebration of African-American traditions in music," said Dina Foy, professor of music and coordinator of the event.

Foy and John Pleas, professor of psychology, hosted the event.

The contestants were judged by three faculty members from Tennessee State University: Benjamin Kirk, director of jazz ensembles and assistant director of bands; Darryl Nettles, assistant professor of Vocal/Choir Studies; and David Walker, currently on leave from TSU and assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs for the Tennessee Board of Regents.

"I thought it was a very nice performance," Kirk said. "It's good for students to put themselves in this kind of competition."

"I'm looking forward to next year." ●

## SGA: graphic capabilities for internet access, student regent discussed at SGA House meeting

Continued from page 1

Committee must submit further bills to SGA correcting the minor wording problems found in the Electoral Act. It must also be changed so that spring elections may be held anytime during the spring semester.

"I feel confident that the Act will be passed pending the correction of legislation," Grantham said.

Also announced during the House session was the proposal by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to make a deal with the MCI phone company allowing students, faculty and staff to receive dial-up access to graphic interface programs, such as Netscape, for a monthly fee.

Currently a modem pool of 77 modems is available for dial-up to the university server which are free to MTSU students, faculty and staff. This will still be available. The MCI program will be on a voluntary basis only.

The program would offer full internet access 24 hours a day for \$12 a month with a \$10 sign-up fee. The \$12 allows 60 hours of access a month after which the subscriber would be billed 95 cents an hour between 6 a.m. and 1 a.m. From 1 a.m. to 6 a.m., the subscriber would receive free time.

OIT contacted MCI to negotiate a deal that would eliminate the current saturation of frank's modem pool. MCI guarantees 99 percent connect rate with

this program.

The upcoming meeting of the Tennessee Council of Student Presidents was also announced.

One of the issues discussed in this meeting will be the nomination of a student regent member for the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and a student Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) member.

There are three nominees from across the state picked for each position and the Governor makes the final decision. Students who are interested in applying may pick up a letter of intent form in the SGA office. The deadline for the form is March 8. ●

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Call 898-2103 for current information.

# Women's conference to focus on development of leadership skills

By Lee Murphy / staff

MTSU will host the first Women's Leadership Conference (WLC) for college students in the state of Tennessee on Friday, March 8.

The WLC, which falls on International Women's Day, is sponsored by the National Association for Women in Education (NAWE), the June Anderson Women's Center (JAWC), the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The conference features three workshop sessions centered around various aspects of leadership, the 1996 Women of Achievement awards and keynote speaker Harriett Woods, the first woman Lieutenant Governor of Missouri. Woods, also a former state senator and immediate past president of the National Women's Political Caucus, will speak on "Women's Leadership: A New Vision."

"This conference focuses on the needs of women," JAWC Director Candace Rosovsky said.

The conference will not only provide valuable insight into the "skills and tools" of effective leadership but will present role models and opportunities for women students attending from all over the state, Rosovsky said.

The conference is also aimed at reinforcing leadership awareness among women college students.

"There are outstanding women leaders and this is something perfectly normal for

**"The concept of being a leader is not something that is outside of the pail for women."**

**Candace Rosovsky**  
Director of the JAWC

them to aspire to—just as they would aspire to get a bachelor's in business, journalism or anything else," Rosovsky said. "The concept of being a leader is not something that is outside of the pail for women."

Titled "A New Vision," keynote speaker Woods will talk about the importance of being a woman leader and what it signifies. "Women bring unique qualities to the workplace and to the culture, and these are important to tap into because I think they will change the definition of what it is to be a leader," Rosovsky said. "I think [the conference] will help women see that we bring fresh thought and new ideas—'A New Vision' for what it is to be a woman."

The 1996 Tennessee Women of Achievement Awards portion of the program will honor a faculty administrator, a community leader and two college students. Nancy Ransom, director of the

Vanderbilt University Women's Center, has been named the outstanding administrative woman, and state Sen. Thelma Harper of Nashville has been named the outstanding community leader. Both recipients will be present during the conference to accept their awards. The recipients of the outstanding college student awards will be announced at the awards ceremony on March 8. Additionally, all the women who were nominated in the above categories will be presented with certificates in recognition of their excellence.

The all-day conference will also feature three workshops where participants can "learn to interact with other, communicate more effectively and deal better with issues of concern." The various sessions include topics such as "Stress Management," "Diversity in the Workplace," "Discrimination and Prejudice," "Women's Health" and "Gender Communication." From issues concerning women and marriage to cross-cultural communication, the workshops will provide a diverse range of discussions.

The NAWE, a co-sponsor of the conference, holds an annual national women's leadership conference for college students in Washington, D.C. MTSU's upcoming conference was, in part, modeled after the national program and is only one of three universities to hold any type of women's leadership conference, according to Rosovsky. The other two institutions are Purdue University and the University

of Florida. "But, as far as I know, we're the only university who is doing a statewide women's leadership conference that's co-sponsored by NAWE, so this is a first. We're trendsetting," Rosovsky said.

Another unique quality of the program is that it has been, for the most part, organized entirely by women students at MTSU. Headed by Annie Miller, student coordinator for the conference, the planning committee consists of seven student associate directors in addition to Miller. Rosovsky and Holly Lentz-Karstens, associate dean of Student Life, served as co-advisors.

"I'm very impressed with all the universities," Miller said. "They've given us an incredible response."

The response has been so great that it has been nearly impossible for the committee to maintain a registration head count. In addition to MTSU students, other universities participating in the upcoming conference include: University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Chattanooga State University; Roan Community College; East Tennessee State University; and Tennessee State University.

"It's just so encouraging to see the support of everyone," Miller said.

Speaking recently at an SGA meeting, Miller was pleased to see the conference receive support from both men and women students. "I did have someone ask me if [the conference] is only for women, and I said, 'I encourage men to

go out and start a Men's Leadership Conference.' They have one at the University of Florida," she said.

As a representative of the June Anderson Women's Center, Miller is often faced with similar questions with regards to separate resources for male students.

"I encourage men to stand up and take a stand in leadership too," she said.

Both Miller and Rosovsky acknowledged their

appreciation of the entire MTSU community for its support of the conference.

The conference welcomes all women students currently attending an institution of higher education in the state of Tennessee. The deadline to register for the conference is March 1 with a late registration fee of \$18. Registration forms and additional information are available at the June Anderson Women's Center, JUB 206, or you can call 898-2193. ●

## BASEBALL: Raiders picked as conference favorites

Continued from page 1

I was just able to get all over it."

Shortstop Clay Snellgrove opened the Raider ninth with a double to left-center. Young struck out second baseman Jon Case and freshman centerfielder Jeremy Owens for the first two outs of the innings, but the third strike to Owens got away from the Crimson Tide's catcher and Owens was able to make it to first.

Then, senior third baseman Doug Barner came to the plate and came through with a two-strike single to right field that scored Snellgrove and Owens and put the Raiders on top 4-3.

Beddies and Barner were the biggest offensive contributors for the Raiders, both going 2-for-5 on the day with two RBIs each.

Starting pitcher Jason Stanton worked five innings, allowing six hits and two earned runs while striking out six.

Blue Raider closer George Oleksik (1-0) worked the final two innings of the game to collect the win, giving up one hit and three walks. Oleksik struck out Alabama's first two batters in the ninth, then got third baseman Andy Phillips to ground weakly to third to end the game.

The Raiders, who conference coaches have picked as the favorite to repeat as OVC champions, will be on the road this weekend, heading to Atlanta for a three-game series with Georgia State.

MTSU's home opener will be Wednesday, Feb. 28 against Louisville. Admission to all Blue Raider home baseball games is free to students with a valid I.D. ●

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January, 1996

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(Nominee must be full-time faculty members to be eligible)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this ballot via campus mail to:  
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**CART**, or deliver it personally to the **Office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cope Administration Building, Room 119. Delivery must be accomplished no later than February 29, 1996.**

P/VPAA  
January, 1996





## In our view

### SGA's pricy banquet serves few other than themselves

The Student Government Association was allotted \$3,000 from the student activity fee fund to host their annual SGA banquet. These activity fee funds come from students. It is the \$4 line students can find on their bill.

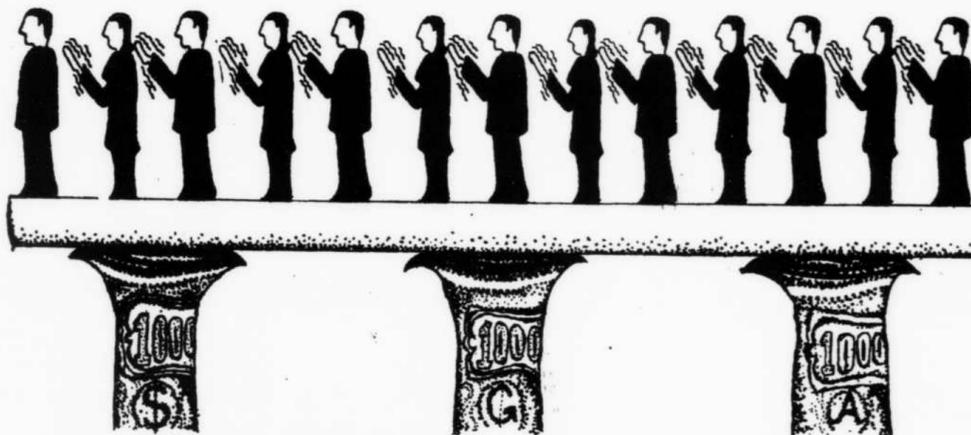
The banquet consists of much passing around of awards, congratulations and pats on the back.

What is the point? What has the SGA done to deserve a \$3,000 party?

This is no way for our student government to serve students. The \$3,000 could certainly be used for something more productive and beneficial to all students. It came out of the collective student wallet. There are better ways to spend it than on an elbow-rubbing session for a fraction of its population.

As of recent, the SGA seems recommitted to addressing student issues head on. This is commendable.

If the SGA is really committed to student welfare, they will abandon this exclusive party and use the money for something productive and lasting.



### SGA's \$3,000 pat on the back

(formally known as the SGA banquet)

(paid for by all MTSU students)

## Faith-based opinion can be valid



Scott Link

Does faith invalidate an individual's opinion?

The atmosphere of today's society seems to imply that very thing. Let anyone, no matter how much initially respected, mention that faith is his basis for a moral value and see how fast he is subject to scorn. Immediately the cries go up, "You can't impose your fanaticism on me! How dare you try to tell me what is right and wrong! Religion has no place in public debate!"

"The idea that a group of people will refuse to bow, either to law or to what some are bold to call reason, is, of course, a very subversive one in organized society. But religion, properly understood, is a very subversive force; subversive, at least, in a state committed to the proposition that religious ways of looking at the world do not count. No wonder, then, that our political culture seems to be afraid of it" ("Culture of Disbelief," Carter, p. 43).

America was founded on the freedom to worship any god, or gods, any way, even to deny the existence of a deity. Just because the government will make no law regarding freedom of religion does not mean I cannot vote my conscience, regardless of the origin of my view. My vote counts, just as yours does. The reasons for my opinion are as valid to me as the reasons for yours are to you.

Why is it those who keep their faith silent are more credible than those who openly proclaim it? It is, possibly, the fact that many religious people do not know enough about what they have faith in to openly debate their beliefs without resorting to phrases like "I don't question my god, or gods" or "You've just got to have faith." Ignorance gives all religion a bad name.

Perhaps it is the idolizing of religious leaders which undermines the credibility of faith-based views. When

imperfect people are placed on a pedestal as a perfect example to the world, it is little wonder that hopes are dashed when they are shown to be human after all.

Then there is the issue of religious morality being forced on society. If I think the lifestyle to which I aspire is the best way to live, why would I not tell others about it so they could make a decision to live by it? Is it not my duty to urge others to adopt my position?

There is a fine line between urging and forcing. I cannot force another to take my view. Yet, societal rules are made by our governing bodies. If I can convince enough people that my view is the best, then laws that reflect that view will be passed. Then society, in my opinion, will have been improved. A person can believe that my position on an issue is valid without believing in my God.

I think any rule made by God has a logical reason behind it. Even if you don't think the God I worship is real, the logical reasons behind the rules deserve consideration. I should be able to stand and give voice to my opinion, in a logical manner, and be taken as seriously as anyone else. You do not have to agree with what is said, but you should not summarily dismiss the content merely because of the origin.

"...we must be able, in our secular society, to distinguish a critique of the content of the belief from a critique of the source. Otherwise, the putative 'fanaticism' of the [Branch] Davidians becomes virtually indistinguishable from the 'fanaticism' of Martin Luther King, Jr.—for both were willing to risk the wrath of secular society for what they believed. ... Far better, surely, to conclude that King's religion moved him to act as a hero and the Davidians' religion moved them to act as very much the opposite, but that in neither case was the fact that the motivation was a religious one reason for censure" ("Culture of Disbelief," Carter, p. 277).

Scott Link is a senior Radio/TV student.

## Letters to the Editor

### When will the university host a conservative speaker?

To the Editor,

On behalf of the students and faculty who are tired of seeing the most liberal guest speakers on the MTSU campus, I would like to know who the next conservative speaker on campus will be and when he or she will be here? I have attended MTSU for almost two years, and I cannot remember ever having a conservative speaker on campus that got any press coverage outside of Bill Frist, but he was running for

guest speaker. It seems to me that every time *Sidelines* reports that we will have a guest speaker here, the speaker is a raging liberal. Are these people invited, or do they volunteer to speak on campus? Whenever I read about what a guest speaker discussed when he or she was here, it seems as if the speaker is always talking about how the government needs to prolong the failed welfare state or how anyone that argues against affirmative action is just an

laid claim to the myth that they are the most tolerant members of society, but I have yet to find a liberal who will listen to any ideas touted by conservatives. If the university is so interested in diversity, how about having more guest speakers that are on the right side of the political spectrum instead of the usual parade of left-wingers?

Ryan Trammel  
Sophomore, Political Science

### UEC chair finds 'common ground' with Pat Buchanan

To the Editor,

In a rally targeting same sex marriage in Des Moines, Iowa, Pat Buchanan said something deserving recognition.

Speaking to the usual crowd, Buchanan said, "No one should have 'special rights' for what they do in their bedrooms."

I have to agree with Pat. Special rights are rights granted to individuals with specific exclusions to others. Currently, heterosexuals enjoy a number of special rights for what they do in their bedrooms. This is fundamentally wrong.

More than 160 "automatic rights" are granted to couples once they are married. Some of these rights include: wrongful death

benefits, joint parental custody, hospital visitation, joint tax returns and tax advantages, and obtaining domestic violence protection orders.

Most people realize that with unlimited income, some gays and lesbians can hire lawyers to draft documents and pay for a few "special rights" automatically granted to heterosexuals. However, it should be noted that disgruntled family and nervous hospital administrators often challenge their validity successfully because no law specifically protects the rights that supposedly exist equally for gays and lesbians.

The similarity in arguments against equal rights for gays and lesbians, both on and off campus, stem from this polluted concept of

"special rights." As Buchanan indirectly identified, there are an extreme few that seem to enjoy speculating what goes on in bedrooms across America. Unfortunately for some, the selective discrimination against those who do not share in heterosexual proclivities has brought these issues to the public arena.

The Uniform Equality Committee continues with important work on this and other campuses across the state on related and relevant issues. For more information about these efforts, we encourage people to visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~mtlambda/uec.html>

Michael Grantham  
Sr., Psychology/English; UEC Chair

### Whole truth essential for debate on university issues

To the Editor,

The opinion piece by Mr. Dave Watson of Feb. 15, 1996 raises two concerns with me. The first is the lack of student participation and awareness. I agree with him that student participation in most instances is low. This doesn't mean that there aren't students working for certain causes. Usually, there is a core group of hard working, persevering individuals. This small percentage usually do the dirty work so that the rest of us can sign a petition or walk in a march at a rally. A prime example of this was the petition drive held by the MTSU College Democrats in response to the recent proposals in Congress relating to student aid. MTSU students provided over 1,200 signatures in opposition to the House Republican's plan. This was possible because there was a small group of people who made involvement of the masses easier.

Most of us don't take the time to conceptualize a position, organize others who share this position and then advertise our position to the rest of the world so that they might agree or disagree. We all know which group we belong to. For those who wait for others to provide a simple way to participate in these debates, I urge us to try to be more active in the construction and broadcasting of our views.

Of course involvement is only the beginning. As Mr. Watson so vividly points out, an ill-formed mind is much more dangerous than an ignorant one. I refer specifically to his reference that the latest SGA bill is "asking the administration to spend \$7,000 on a survey" to reduce lighting. The bill said nothing of the sort. It clearly asks the administration to sign MTSU on as a partner in the EPA's Green Lights Program. In becoming a partner, MTSU agrees to conduct a survey of the existing lighting on campus.

The study is used to see where energy-efficient lighting technology can be incorporated so as to SAVE the university money in energy costs. The funding for this project is not addressed anywhere in the bill. There are in fact many different ways for the university to fund this including state energy grants, using federally-funded work/study students, or having an outside company called an ESCO do the survey without any cost to MTSU. So though Mr. Watson should be commended for his involvement in campus issues, he must ensure that he has his facts straight before deciding what his positions are on those issues. All of us need to voice our opinions on issues that affect MTSU, but we also have the responsibility to ensure that our opinions are based on the truth.

Robert Chavez  
Senior, Environmental Science and Technology

## SIDELINES

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## LETTERS POLICY

*Sidelines* encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words. Authors who want more than 300 words to express themselves should contact the editor. *Sidelines* keeps its pages open to all viewpoints and all members of the MTSU community. Authors should include their name, address, major, classification and phone number for identification purposes. (Phone numbers will not be published.) *Sidelines* reserves the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to Box 42, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 or drop them off at the *Sidelines* office in JUB Room 310. Letters can also be sent via e-mail to the editor at: [m\\_c\\_008c@frank.mtsu.edu](mailto:m_c_008c@frank.mtsu.edu).

# FEATURES

Page 6

SIDELINES

Thursday, February 22, 1996

## Dr. Father exposes the 'naked truth'



Dr. Judson solves your problems

Dear Dr. Judson,

I was wondering if I could use your column as a place to make a public request to the male faculty of our fine institution who use the STUDENT Recreation Center.

Please, for the love of God, men, wear a towel around your waist when you are in the locker room. I don't know if you are trying to freak out your students who use the student recreation center. But the older faculty, as well as the younger, who work out there seem to have no qualms about showing off their genitalia to the whole world. I think that the students have more decency than some of you.

Thanks, Dr. Father, I feel much better.

Forever yours,  
A Decent Student

Dear Decent Student,

I find a large flaw in the logic of your letter. If the faculty at your school are, in fact, "showing off their genitalia to the whole world," wouldn't you be seeing them walking around campus naked?

If your professors truly wanted the "whole world" to see them unclothed, don't you think they would have to do some kind of tremendous advertising? Don't you think they would at least put up a few billboards? Even a calendar for crying out loud?

Decent student, you must have some sort of blemish in your thinking. These men are not "showing off their genitalia to the whole world." They are just walking around the locker room naked. You should not worry.

Love,  
Dr. Father Judson

Dr. Father Judson

You know what I like you I like you a lot A whole lot you know why it's because you look cool when you have dreadlocks or when you look like the guy from Kiss or when you have a beard or when you have weird sideburns I'll bet you look cool in just about anything but you know what I'll bet you would look coolest of all if you were naked I'm not trying to sexually harass you Dr. Father Judson I just want to make you feel good about yourself and I don't want to stalk you or anything but if it would be all right I might kiss you on the jaw one time or maybe two times do you think that would be all right Father can I call you Father I hope you don't mind please don't think I'm weird or obsessed with you I just like you a lot a whole lot.

Thank you for just being you  
Your best friend

Dear Your best friend

You know what I don't like you I don't like you a lot A whole lot you know why it's because you write like a freak didn't your English teachers tell you about punctuation or were you too busy thinking about what I'd look like naked to learn to use a freaking period I'll bet you write like a freak in just about anything but you know what I'll bet you would write like a freak most of all if you were in jail I am trying to say you frighten me Your best friend I just want to make you feel horrible about yourself and I want you behind bars but if it would be all right I might punch you on the jaw one time or maybe two times do you think that would be all right Best can I call you Best I hope you don't mind please don't think I'm weird or obsessed with you I just don't like you a lot a whole lot.

Love  
Dr. Father

\* Dr. Judson is neither a licensed therapist nor a stable person. Sidelines assumes no responsibility for those following his advice, but assures the student body that we will prevent him from walking around naked in the Rec Center. If you must write him, please do so at Box 42. ●

## Black National Anthem sung in celebration

By Scott Link / staff

It was a celebration of the message of the "Black National Anthem" and the man who penned it.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta sorority presented a program in the LRC Multi Media Room Mon., Feb. 19, to commemorate the contributions of fraternity brother James Weldon Johnson.

A celebrated author, Johnson composed such works as a poem entitled "The Creation" and the fiction book "Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man." The two-portion program began with a film about Johnson's life and work and ended with a rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by Johnson and performed by those in attendance.

"We feel that this song not only unites the souls of African-Americans, but it also has the potential to bring into harmony the souls of all races," said Donley Ferguson of Phi Beta Sigma. "To me, the song is a call for everyone to come together in the harmony of liberty and melody of freedom to carry on the struggle for equality."

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is referred to as the national anthem of African-Americans, but is more the anthem of people's souls than the anthem of a nation, Ferguson said. "The Star-Spangled Banner" unites our country, but this song unites our souls. Johnson's song was first sung by 500 children at a celebration for Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1900.

The film, the James Weldon Johnson segment of "Poetry by Americans" from Oxford Films, gave a sense of history about the man who wrote the anthem, according to Ferguson. This film is available for viewing at the LRC Learning Lab.

The people who attended the event came not only to see but also to participate, by learning the words to a special song. Ferguson said that this song was important for everybody, not just African-Americans.

For improvements in our campus race relations, Ferguson suggested a multi-racial activities committee be formed to facilitate events where the needs of all students could be met.

As far as what each individual can do to improve relations with other races, Ferguson suggested just "looking up" as a place to start.

"Look at the people who are walking past. Start the communication process," Ferguson said. "We should not be afraid, but should confront our fears and communicate. It is a lack of communication that hinders racial relations." ●



Amanda McAdams / staff

Adonijah Bakari, Fannie Jean Vaughn, and Gregory Bowers participate in Monday's sing-a-long

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing  
Till the earth and Heaven  
ring  
Ring with the harmonies  
of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the  
rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has  
taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has  
brought us;  
Facing the rising sun  
Of our new day begun,

Let us march on till  
victory is won.

Stony the road we trod  
Bitter in the chast'ning  
rod.  
Felt in the days when  
hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat  
have not our weary feet,  
Come to that place for  
which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that tears has been  
watered,  
We have come treading  
out path through the  
blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of  
our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears.  
Thou who has brought us

thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by thy  
might  
Led us into the light.  
Keep us forever in the  
path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from  
the places, our God where  
we meet Thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy  
hand, may we forever  
stand,  
True to our God, true to  
our native land. ●

James Weldon Johnson wrote the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing" for a Lincoln birthday celebration in 1900. With music composed by his brother, J. Rosamond, the song was first sung by 500 children in Jacksonville, Fla. It has since become known as the "Negro National Anthem."

## Self swims, others sink at NeA Extravaganza '96

By Elizabeth T. Fisher / staff

Spongebath Records hosted a night of new music acts at Nashville's 328 Performance Hall Saturday, Feb. 17, as part of the Nashville Entertainment Association's Extravaganza '96.

Self, the brainchild of former MTSU student Matt Mahaffey, headlined the evening. Also featured were several other spongebath artists and two acts from out of state. The NeA Extravaganza is held annually to draw attention to unsigned musical acts of the mid-state area.

Self was definitely worth the four-hour wait. They put on a tight show with a creepy element that made me want to call them Self and the Spiders from Mars. I wish I could

make everyone feel good and say the same for every other act of the spongebath stable. I have, however, devised a beverage analogy to help the reader understand the mediocrity of the music:

**Daphne's Operation:** A Barium shake. "Do I HAVE to?!" I hope that poor monitors are to blame for the discord.

**Jenny Hall:** Sweet 'n Low tea. Mmm - goes great with macaroni and cheese. Actually, she sounded great.

**Fluid Ounces:** Hot, flat Milwaukee's Best. Oh sure, some people will drink it.

**Monsoon** (from Virginia): An icy cold Co'cola. Two women, a syncopated beat and a shiny new dobro prove that less is definitely more.

**Sweetwater** (from Seattle): Amaretto. A little goes a long way, but you wouldn't want to get drunk on it, would you? Then again, Ramones and Stooges sound great with a buzz. Some people criticize the Jagger-esque singer, but at least he gave it his all.

**The Features:** Oops! I missed this one. Sorry, guys.

**The Roaries:** More aptly titled the "Bories." They were like a glass of tepid tap water at a dirty guy's house.

**Gumption:** A nice cup of coffee. You drink it the same way every day, but you give a little smile each time.

**Self:** They rocked like the first beer on Friday after 60 hours at minimum wage. Their catchy bites of cynicism were reminiscent of early XTC—like the spastic bitter energy of the early 1980s.

I didn't stay for the rest of the

show. Five hours was plenty for me. I regret that what could have been a really exciting night was downright boring.

The main problem with every act was their inability to hold the audience's attention for more than two songs. If you only have two good songs, you've got problems. Too many aspiring rock stars seem to have forgotten that, Sonic Youth aside, it's still about entertainment, not self-indulgence.

Performers need charisma, stage presence, magnetism, kavorka, SOMETHIN'!! - not just some flannelled dude who knows the words. Self, Sweetwater and Jenny Hall have at least some grasp of this concept. Everyone else: back to the drawing board. ●

## ENTERTAINMENT EXTRA!

TODAY

ARENA THEATER continues its run of "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.

THE BORO (895-4800) gets funky with Johnny Jackson's Soul Satisfaction at 8 p.m. Only \$4 at the door.

BUNGANUT PIG (893-7860) Lindey plays live at 8 p.m. No cover.

CACTUS JACKS (896-3609) gets smokin' with Spanky and the Smoking Gun at 8 p.m.

JONATHAN'S (895-1133) gets loose with Dean Hall & Loose Eels at 10:30 p.m. \$4

KUC THEATER (Student Programming 2551) kills with its showing of "Assassins," starring Sylvester Stallone and Antonio Banderas, at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. for \$2.

MAINSTREET (890-7820) welcomes the Thundergrapes at 10 p.m. for 4 bucks.

SQUEEZER'S (896-8175) rocks with Junkbox at 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

ARENA THEATER curtain goes up on "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.

THE BORO goes where no man has gone with A Million Worlds at 9 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG welcomes Max Johns at 9 p.m.

CACTUS JACKS welcomes Quicksilver at 9:30

MAINSTREET jazzes it up with Scott Holt Blues Band. Show starts at 10 p.m. \$4

SQUEEZER'S parties with Daphne's Operation, Kingin and Seratoma. It all starts at 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

ARENA THEATER hosts the last showing of "The Baltimore Waltz" at 8 p.m.

THE BORO welcomes Old Mother Haggard and Rub at 9 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG rocks fraternally with the Warren Brothers Band at 9 p.m.

CACTUS JACKS let's Quicksilver light in for another gig. Same time, same price.

JONATHAN'S makes room for Room 101 at 10:00 p.m. \$4 for 21 and up; \$8 for 18-21.

MAINSTREET presents Dignus with the Lonely Targets at 10 p.m. \$4

SQUEEZER'S grooves with The Nationals at 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

THE BORO gets shaking' as Alex Ogbourne

takes the stage 9 p.m. No cover.

KUC THEATER presents Sean Penn's other Oscar worthy performance with "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" at 4 p.m. for \$2

SQUEEZER'S gets down and dirty with Slump, Ick and Java Christ at 9:30 p.m.

CHORAL CONCERT with brass and organ. Show starts at 3 p.m. in the Music Hall of the Wright Music Building. Tickets are \$8 at the door. MTSU students can get in with their ID.

MONDAY

THE BORO welcomes Cotton Appleseed at 8 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Warren Brothers at 8 p.m.

CACTUS JACKS encourages male bonding with Men's Night and 2-for-1 cocktails.

KUC THEATER Monday night is 80's Night with "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" 6:30 & 9 p.m. w/ \$2 admission.

SQUEEZER'S yucks it up with Alex Ogden and The Laughing Storm Dogs at 9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

THE BORO hosts Mark Pierce at 9 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG hosts Ladies' Night featuring Lisa at 8 p.m.

CACTUS JACKS gives it up for the sisters with Ladies' Night and 2-for-1 cocktails.

KUC THEATER hosts "Vampire in Brooklyn" at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. for \$2.

MAINSTREET presents the Sky Blues at 10 p.m. for \$4.

SQUEEZER'S rocks with Cotton Appleseed at 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

THE BORO hosts Highwater at 9 p.m.

BUNGANUT PIG welcomes the Columbia Highway Bluegrass Band at 8 p.m.

CACTUS JACKS spotlights you! It's Karaoke Night with David Lovell.

KUC THEATER continues its run of "Vampire in Brooklyn" at 6:30 & 9 p.m. for \$2.

JONATHAN'S rocks this and every Wednesday with Tall Paul at 9:30 p.m.

MAINSTREET gets nuts with Crosseyed Chicken and Loose Fragments at 10 p.m. for \$4. SQUEEZER'S Kicks Ladies' Night off with Aggy Colored Karma at 9:30 p.m.

# SPORTS

Thursday, February 22, 1996

SIDELINES

Page 7

## Blue Raiders edge Morehead in final home game

### Tesch's 17 points leads Middle in 'ugly' win

By Rob Nunley / staff

Looking at the records, one wouldn't think Morehead's 7-16 (2-11 OVC) Eagles would have had a chance against the 14-9 (8-5 OVC) Blue Raiders Monday night.

However, because of the OVC's overall balance this year, it seems the records are thrown out, and any team can beat any other on any given night.

Fortunately, the Raiders were able to win yet another battle on Monday, as they came back in the final three minutes to narrowly defeat the Eagles, 73-71, in the final home game of the 1995-96 season.

"It was kind of an ugly game, but I think you also have to give credit to your opponent," Raider head coach David Farrar said. "They shot the ball very well. We were fortunate, really."

Five Blue Raiders scored in double figures in the game, which saw six ties and nine lead changes.

After Morehead's domination on the offensive boards and 50 percent field-goal shooting allowed them to build a lead that grew to as many as 11 points late in the first half, the Raiders regrouped and went on a 10-2 run in the final 2:32 of the half to go into the break trailing by only three points.

The second half was just as tough, with neither team gaining momentum, as the lead changed hands seven times. Middle was able to build a five-point lead with 7:34 remaining in the contest, but failed to score on several possessions and allowed the Eagles to tie the score at 63 on a turnover from Chris Stone with just over four

minutes remaining.

"I think we came back in the last 10 minutes and played a lot harder," Farrar said. "Somebody said when we were up by five, we went six straight possessions without scoring, and that left us without any opportunity to have a little cushion."

Senior guard Tim Gaither, playing in his final game on the Murphy Center hardwood, hit one of the most important shots of the night for the Blue Raiders. The four-year starter drove the lane with a spin move and canned a jumper with 57 seconds left in the game to put the Raiders on top 69-68.

"I didn't want to go out of my last game here with a loss," Gaither said. "At the end of the game when I hit that shot it made me feel good, because as a senior I could help lead this team to a victory."

Newcomer and fan-favorite Aylton Tesch also came up big for the Raiders, grabbing a critical offensive rebound with just 13.2 seconds remaining. After being fouled, Tesch, who has struggled at the charity stripe this season, connected on both attempts from the line to give the Raiders a three point edge at 71-68.

"It feels good," Tesch said. "In the beginning of the season I took the last shot against SEMO and I missed. Now I feel a lot better to know I can hit a shot under pressure."

Even with a three-point lead and only 10 seconds remaining, the Raiders knew Morehead could get off a desperation bucket and tie the game. Middle turned up the defensive pressure on the Eagles' next possession, and Morehead guard Ted Docks lost the ball out of bounds, forcing the Eagles to foul Nod Carter on MTSU's ensuing possession.

Carter's two free-throws proved to be very important, as Eagle guard Doug Wyciskalla buried a long 3-pointer at the buzzer. But it was too

little and too late, as the Raiders ran off the floor with the two-point victory.

Tesch led the Raiders with 17 points, 11 rebounds and two steals to get his ninth double-double of the season. Carter followed with 16 points, including two-of-two from 3-point range, the only 3-pointers Middle attempted all night.

Seniors Gaither and David Washington scored 14 and 13, respectively, with Washington adding three blocks. Roni Bailey rounded out the five Raiders in double-digits with 10 points, nine rebounds and three assists.

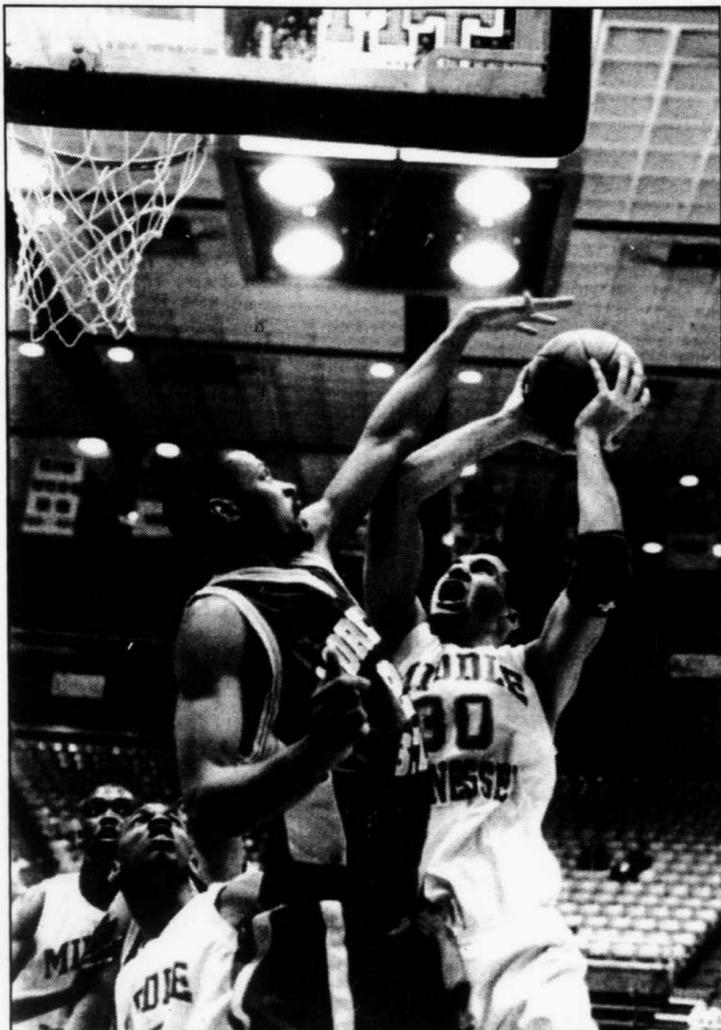
The Raiders will have their work cut out for them this Saturday, as they travel to Kentucky to take on the first-place Racers from Murray State University. Led by guards Marcus Brown and Vincent Rainey, the Racers escaped Murphy Center Jan. 29 with a 73-72 victory.

"It's a real tough place to play," Gaither said. "We've just got to take this week to get prepared. We've got a little momentum going, a little confidence, and we're in second place. I think that's going to be a big help for us, and give us a little more confidence playing against them."

Monday night, the Raiders will head to Martin, Tenn., to face the (11-12, 7-7 OVC) Skyhawks. Farrar said since the Skyhawks are not eligible for the OVC postseason yet, they will be fired up when he brings his squad into town.

"These two games this weekend will be exactly the same way," Farrar said. "Regardless of what we do with Murray, going to Martin is going to be a real hard thing. They're not in the tournament, so that's their tournament. It's their last game against a conference school, so you can expect everything hard core."

Tip-off for Saturday's game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. ●



Brian G. Miller/staff

Junior Aylton Tesch goes for two of his 17 points during Monday night's win over Morehead. MTSU visits Murray State Saturday.

## Lady Raider softball team eyes OVC title for 1996 season

By Lesli Bales / staff

TWA—together, winning, and attitude.

According to Coach Karen Green, that's the plan for this year's Lady Raider softball team, which opens up the season this weekend at the Troy State Tournament in Alabama.

The Lady Raiders finished in third place in the regular season last year. All but two returning players were starters last season.

Green has a positive outlook on

the season. "We have a much improved defensive team. I think that's going to be our strength."

Increased speed is also a plus this season along with a little more depth. Recent injuries have taken several starters and a lot of depth out of the line-up momentarily, but Coach Green hopes to have most of the depth back in play by midseason.

The team is constantly working on their mental game, as far as being focused every pitch of every game and taking it one game at a time.

Meanwhile, the offense is working hard, and the two new pitchers will improve with experience.

The team has not yet elected a captain, but instead has several key players that stand out. Shortstop Kandal Walker, a junior college transfer, is a very solid player that understands the game.

"When she gets up to bat, she's going to do whatever it takes to get the job done," Green said.

First baseman Holly Griffith is also a junior college transfer. Her

team finished fourth in the nation last year. Both her national experience and her strength with the bat will be of value to the Lady Raiders.

Centerfielder Allison Cheatham will be the "quarterback" out in the field while newcomer Kim Blair will help the team with her outstanding foot speed.

"The leadership of Kristin Rawlins will be very beneficial," Green said.

Rawlins has played first and third base, and was recently moved to second.

"Every team needs a player like Kristin that can fill in the gap wherever needed," Green added.

Despite being bit by both the flu and injury bugs, Coach Green expects her squad to work toward their usual goal going into the tournament this weekend: to finish at the top.

MTSU has the honor of hosting the OVC softball tournament this May. Till then, you can catch the Lady Raiders in action on Feb. 27 as they take on Carson-Newman College in their first home game. ●

## 12 Lady Raider scorers combine for 108-75 Morehead win

By Sean P. O'Toole / staff

As the old saying goes, some things never change.

This could not be more apparent than after the Lady Raiders 108-75 pounding of Morehead State's Lady Eagles on Monday night. The 33-point margin was the same difference MTSU posted the last time the two teams met on Jan. 20.

After falling behind 4-0 to the Lady Eagles in the first few minutes of play, the Lady Raiders fought back and took a 10-8 lead off a Trella Thomas 3-pointer.

The Lady Raiders then built the lead up to six at 22-16, before Morehead went on a 7-0 run. But before the Lady Eagles could get comfortable, the Lady Raiders started to erupt.

Starting with a Natalie Sneed 3-pointer, the Lady Raiders went on a 12-0 run in a two minute span, that gave them a 34-23 edge.

The Lady Raiders outscored the Lady Eagles 22-10 down the last eight minutes of the half, and went into the locker room at halftime with a 56-33 lead.

Just when the Lady Eagles thought that things could not get any worse, they did.

After both teams scored a few brisk baskets, the Lady Raiders went on yet another spurt, this time an 11-5 run, that spanned nearly five minutes and saw the Lady Raider lead blossom all the way to 32 at 77-45, with 13:00 left in the game.

And after four minutes of scoring by both teams, the Lady Raiders hit another spurt, a 14-5 run this time, and inflated the lead all the way to 39, the highest it would ever be, with 5:00 left in the game.

The Lady Eagles never got closer than 32 after that, and the Lady Raiders were able to walk away with

one of the year's most convincing wins.

"It was our offense," said head coach Lewis Bivens. "We just got a good lead and were able to hold onto it."

Senior guard Heather Prater led the Lady Raiders with 20 points, and for the second straight game, shot perfect from the free throw line, this time nailing down all six of her shots from the stripe.

Despite her 20, Prater said it was important that the Lady Raiders shot an impressive 10 of 21 from 3-point land, something they had done very poorly in the past two games.

"Trella (Thomas), Natalie (Sneed), and Kim (Francis) all hit 3-pointers tonight," Prater said. "They will have to, because the teams are starting to take away my shots."

Jonelda Buck backed up Prater with 14 points, and Cortney Neeley and Carlita Elder both posted nine points and seven rebounds. Trella Thomas also added 10 points and seven assists for the starters.

"Jonelda was able to shoot well for the second straight game," Bivens said. "We were able to pass the ball to her over the top, something we had not been able to do the past few games."

Once again, the Lady Raider bench stepped up big, with seven of the eight reserves scoring points, led by Kim Francis and Nikki Edwards's nine points each, and Natalie Sneed and Kara Hobbs right behind with eight apiece. The Lady Raider bench outscored Morehead's 42-15.

For the third straight game, the Lady Raiders outrebounded their opponent, this time blasting Morehead on the boards 55-35.

The Lady Eagles were led by Octavia Evans' 22 points, and Megan Huffer's 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Middle now holds a one-game lead over Austin Peay in the race for the OVC regular season crown. Despite

the Lady Gobs recent transformation into a powerhouse, coach Bivens says that Peay actually helps the Lady Raiders motivation.

"Having AP down on us actually helps us," Bivens said. "We seem to respond well to pressure."

Prater added, "I do not think we really pay much attention to them. They are the only team with a winning record aside from us, but we can not look past our last two opponents."

The last two opponents the Lady Raiders (21-3, 12-2) must now face are Murray State (9-14, 6-7) Saturday and UT-Martin Monday, both on the road. The Lady Raiders disposed of both easily during the 12-game win streak in January.

"Martin and Murray are two tough teams to play on the road, especially Murray," Bivens said. "They have two kids in (Stephanie) Minor and (Anjeanette) Gilbert that are terrific."

Prater added, "The next two games are huge confidence builders, and we need them for tournament momentum."

There was some sad closure to the game. Prater, who was named to the Academic All-American team on Wednesday, played in her final game on the Murphy Center floor Monday night, and said that despite all her modesty, she will miss it.

"I thought about it earlier today," Prater said. "This is a great place to play. I played here every year in high school in the state tournament, so I have actually been here for eight years: I will miss it."

Jonelda Buck said of Prater and the other seniors, "It is very sad. We have all grown so close this year. These are the best bunch of girls I have ever known."

Tip-off for Saturday's game is at 5:45 p.m., and can be heard on 1450-AM WGNS. ●



Brian G. Miller/staff

Kim Francis goes for a lay-up in Monday's win against Morehead.

### MTSU baseball predicted champs

OVC baseball coaches picked MTSU as the favorite to repeat as champion in a pre-season poll released Tuesday.

The Blue Raiders got seven first-place votes and 49 points overall to beat second place finisher SEMO, which had 41 points.

Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

Eastern Kentucky was picked third (37 points), followed by Murray State, Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech. Morehead and TSU were tied for last place with 10 votes apiece. ●

Lady Raider forward Jessica Beaty underwent surgery on her injured knee yesterday.

The Sidelines sports staff would like to wish Jessica a speedy recovery and a quick return to the court.

## Women's tennis wins home match

By Joel Frey / staff

The Lady Raider tennis team claimed its third win in four matches Wednesday afternoon at the Murphy Center courts with a hard-fought 5-4 victory over Southwestern Louisiana.

With the match tied at four, the doubles team of Kelley Bacich and Michelle Wilson clinched the match for MTSU with an impressive 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 win over the Ragin' Cajuns' top doubles pair.

After USL won the second set, Wilson said it was important she and Bacich did not get down on themselves, even after Bacich's serve was broken in the first game of the third set.

"We just told ourselves we weren't going to lose no matter what," Wilson said.

Bacich added: "It wasn't a matter of us playing bad in the second set, our opponents just stepped up and made some big shots."

Coach David Thornton said a big win like this for his young

team will aid in its overall confidence as they head to Muncie, Ind. this weekend for matches with Ball St. and Michigan St.

"I am very happy and impressed with today's win," Thornton said.

"We continue to show tremendous improvement from last year and today's match was good in that it was important that other people in the line-up are stepping up and winning some big matches."

Evidence to this improvement can be seen directly in the win over USL. Last season, with virtually the same line-up it played yesterday, the Ragin' Cajuns defeated Middle, twice, by identical 7-0 scores.

"They whipped us last year, no doubt," Thornton said. "That is why this win is so big for us."

Besides the key doubles win, sophomore Amy King and Courtney Genosi also aided in the Lady Raider cause yesterday with single wins.

Playing in the singles line-

up for the first time this season, Genosi, a freshman from Chattanooga, easily won at number five, 6-1, 6-1.

King, too, played impressive in her 6-2, 6-4 victory in the number four spot in the Lady Raider line-up.

Freshman Jennifer Bryans said the team looks forward to building upon the win this weekend in Indiana.

"It is going to be a big weekend for us," Bryans said. "If we play as well as we did today, I think we'll be in good shape."

Following weekend action in Muncie, the Lady Raider's rigorous schedule continues on the road.

The team will not return to the Murphy Center courts until March 21 when it will face off against UT-Chattanooga.

Sandwiched in between that match will be trips to Little Rock, Ark., and a spring break journey to Hilton Head, S.C., where the Lady Raiders will face off against the University of North Carolina and Georgetown University. ●



Carl E. Lambert/staff

Lady Raider freshman Jennifer Bryans returns a serve in her match yesterday against Southwest Louisiana at the Murphy Center courts. MTSU won the match, 5-4.

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# Golfers open season at Florida tourney

By Joel Frey / staff

The MTSU Blue Raider golf team will travel to their first tournament of the spring season this weekend.

Coach Johnny Moore and his team will head to Tampa, Fla. this Friday through Sunday to compete in the Ron Smith/University of South Florida Invitational.

The Raiders will be competing in a 21-team field which includes Alabama-Birmingham, Central Florida, South Alabama, Minnesota, Memphis and Louisville, as well as a host team South Florida.

"It's a pretty strong field," Moore said. "There are going to be a lot of tough teams down there."

The Ron Smith Invitational is played on USF's home course, a venue which stresses accuracy, according to the Raider coach.

"It's a good course, but it's a really short, tight course," Moore said. "There's an awful lot of alligators and swamps down there, too."

The Raiders have not had a lot of opportunities to practice going into the tournament because of the recent cold weather that has struck middle Tennessee.

"We haven't been able to get outside and work with in the last few weeks, so I'm anxious to see how well we play," Moore said. "I'm not using that for an excuse, and I think we'll do okay. But hopefully we'll get some warm weather soon."

Brian Higgins and David Reed qualified for this weekend's Invitational by shooting even par over 72 holes, and will be representing Middle Tennessee at the three-day, 54-hole event in the number-one and number-two spots.

Filling the three and four

spots will be Maine Brock and David Head. Mike Chesser will round out the group in the five spot.

"Chesser has been out of the lineup for about a year," Moore explained. "But this is the kind of course he plays very well."

Moore said he is looking forward to seeing his team compete in their first tournament of the spring season, especially with the level of competition they will be going up against.

"I feel like if we can finish around the middle of the field, we'll be doing pretty good," Moore said.

The Raiders will have one week after returning from the USF Invitational before heading back down to Florida for the Imperial Lakes/Southern Florida Intercollegiate tournament Mar. 1-3.

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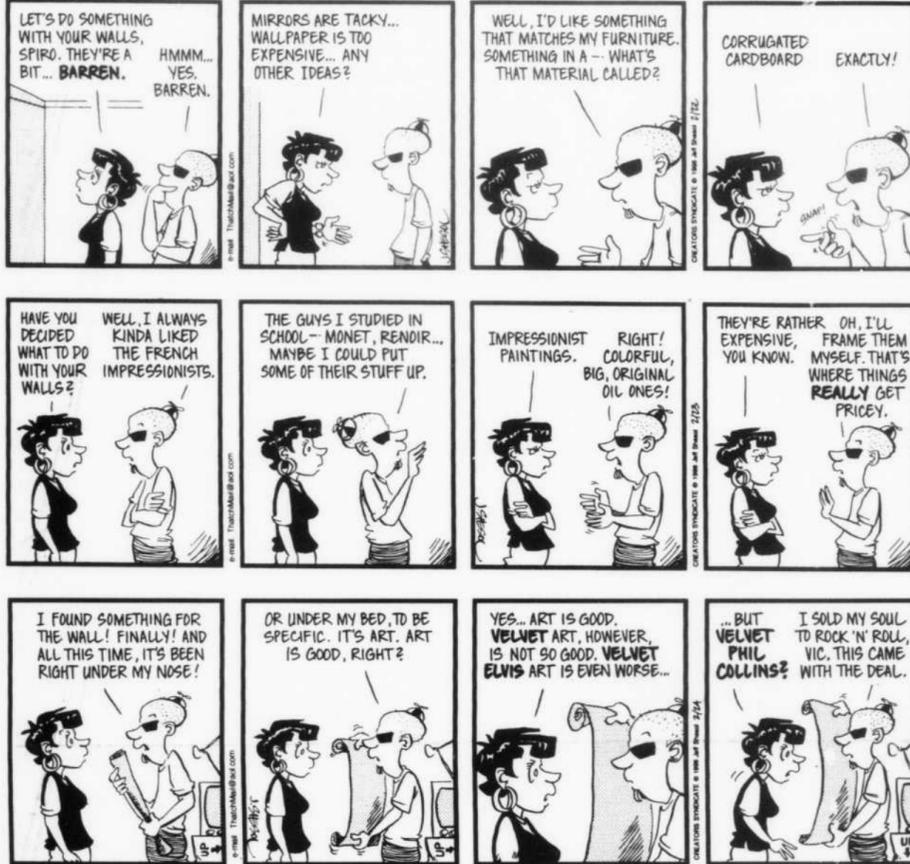
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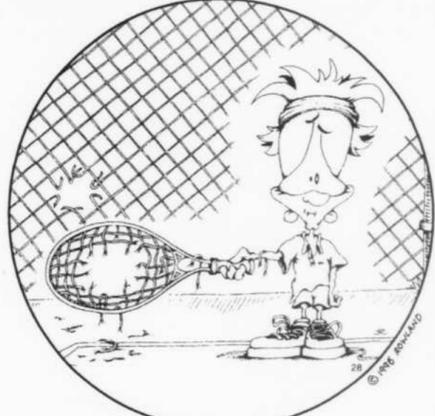


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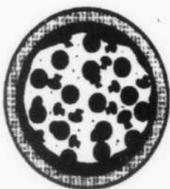
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